

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7848

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 13311

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: ASEC, PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET WALK-IN AT SPASO HOUSE: DETAILS

REF: MOSCOW 13242

1. FOLLOWING PROVIDES MORE DETAILS ON 22 AUGUST SOVIET WALK-IN REPORTED REFTEL.

2. AT ABOUT 0330, SPASO HOUSE DOMESTIC STAFF FOUND IN SPASO BASEMENT APPARENT SOVIET WALK-IN. AMBASSADOR'S STAFF AIDE WAS ALERTED AND INTERVIEWED SOVIET, WHO SAID HE WAS GENNADIY VIKTOROVICH KOPYTOV, AND THAT HE HAD GAINED ENTRY TO SPASO FIRST BY STRUGGLE (BORBA) WITH A GUARD OUTSIDE THE HOUSE, AND THEN BY SQUEEZING THROUGH A BASEMENT (FORTOCHKA" (SMALL WINDOW). STAFF AIDE ASKED IF KOPYTOV HAD ANY FAMILY IN THE U.S., TO WHICH REPLY WAS NEGATIVE. STAFF AIDE EXPLAINED TO KOPYTOV THAT EMBASSY CANNOT ASSIST IN SUCH CASES AND THEN TELEPHONED EMBASSY SECURITY AND DUTY OFFICERS, WHO ARRIVED SHORTLY AFTER 0400.

3. KOPYTOV, WHO WAS QUITE EXCITED AND IRRATIONAL, REPEATEDLY INFORMED DUTY OFFICER THAT HE WANTED TO SPEAK WITH "MR. TECH" (N.B., DR' JACK TECH WAS EMBASSY SCIENCE COUNSELOR 1971-74). INFORMED THAT MR. TECH HAD LEFT THE USSR, KOPYTOV SAID HE WOULD TALK WITH TECH'S ASSISTANT. DUTY OFFICER EXPLAINED HE WAS FROM SCIENCE OFFICE AND OFFERED TO HELP. (QUESTION ON WHEN OR HOW LOPYTOV, WHO HAD REMOVED HIS SHIRT REVEALING NUMEROUS TATOOS, HAD MET "TECH", WAS ANSWERED BY

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GLARING AND COMMENTS THAT THE INFORMATION WOULD NOT BE GIVEN.)

KOPYTOV ALSO SAID HE HAD MET AMBASSADOR BEAM'S SON, BUT DID NOT ANSWER QUESTIONS AS TO WHEN OR HOW. (N.B. AMBASSADOR BEAM'S SON IS CURRENTLY IN USSR, WORKING AT "PHOTOGRAPHY USA" EXHIBIT).

4. KOPYTOV SUBSEQUENTLY MENTIONED DESIRE TO TALK WITH "VOYENNY" ATTACHE. (HE EVIDENTLY BELIEVED THAT "TECH" WAS MILITARY ATTACHE.) KOPYTOV THEN SAID THAT HE WANTED TO SPEAK ONLY TO A FELLOW SOLDIER. DUTY OFFICER POINTED OUT THAT STAFF AIDE HAD SERVED IN VIET NAM, BUT KAPITOV SAID THAT WAS "NOTIHG," THAT HE WANTED TO SPEAK TO A "REAL SOLIDER, A CAREER SOLDIER."

5. FURTHER QUESTIONS REVEALED THAT KOPYTOV ASSERTED HAVING SERVED NEAR SOVIET-CHINESE BORDER IN 1968-70, AND THAT HE HAD INFORMATION RELATING TO TANK MOVEMENTS AND PERSONNEL. SECURITY OFFICER DEPARTED TO SEEK ARMY ATTACHE, WHO COMMENCED DISCUSSIONS AT SPASO WITH KOPYTOV ABOUT 0600. KOPYTOV-ARMY ATTACHE DISCUSSIONS WERE TAPED, AND ARE BEING SENT BY DAO TO WASHINGTON FOR EVALUATION.

6. DURING WAIT FOR ARMY ATTACHE, KOPYTOV RAMBLED REPEATEDLY ABOUT THINGS " WE" (MY-RUSSIAN) ARE DOING. IN ASKING KOPYTOV TO WHOM THE "WE" REFERRED, DUTY OFFICER, LISTED KOPYTOV AND FAMILY, KOPYTOV AND ASSOCIATES, KOPYTOV AND OTHER SOLDIERS, OR "SOVIETS". KOPYTOV NEVER ANSWERED THE QUESTION, BUT HEATEDLY REPLIED THAT THERE ARE NO SOVIETS, ONLY RUSSIANS, BYELORUSSIANS, LATVIANS, ETC., AND TOOK OFF ON BREZHNEV TERMS ("SOVIETS"), AND SAID THE THE QUESTION WAS ONE THAT "THAT FOOL (DURAK) KRUSCHEV" WOULD HAVE POSED. WHEN DUTY OFFICER TRANSLATED QUESTION AND COMMENT, KOPYTOV HEARD REFERENCE TO KHRUSHCHEV AND INTERJECTED , IN GERMAN, "IDIOT" AND "SWINE", AT THIS MENTION OF KRUSCHEV. AT KOPYTOV'S REQUEST, HE WAS GIVEN SMALL AMOUNT (2-3 OZ). OF VODKA, AND WAS ALLOWED TO SHOWER AND REST.

7. COMMENT: UP TO THIS POINT KOPYTOV HAD REMAINED AS EXCITED AS WHEN HE FIRST ENTERED. HE HAD PROBABLY BEEN DRINKING, BUT SEEMED EVEN MORE STIMULATED, IF ONLY BY THE ADRENALIN OF THE DECISION TO ENTER, THE STRUGGLE WITH THE MILITIA, AND HIS ACTUAL ENTRY. HIS CONVERSATION WAS DIFFICULT TO FOLLOW, AS HE COMPLETED NEITHER SENTENCES NOR THOUGHTS, AND HIS REPLIES NEVER ANSWERED THE QUESTIONS POSED. INSISTING THAT HIS COMMENTS BE TRANSLATED, HE
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NEVER WAITED FOR THE TRANSLATION. HIS ATTITUDE DURING INITIAL PERIOD WAS HOSTILE. END COMMENT.

8. AFTER ARMY ATTACHE STARTED DISCUSSIONS (IN RECEPTION ROOM OF SPASO), DUTY OFFICER RETURNED TO CHANCERY TO BRIEF DCM. AT 0725 ARRIVEL AT CHANCERY, DUTY OFFICER WAS CALLED TO TELEPHONE TO TALK TO SEMENOV, PROTOCOL DIVISON, MFA. SEMENOV SAID THAT THERE WAS A SOVIET CITIZEN ON THE "TERRITORY OF THE EMBASSY", THAT

THE CITIZEN HAD HAD AN ALTERCATION WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF SOVIET SECURITY FORCES, AND THAT SOVIET OFFICIALS REQUESTED HIS RETURN. DUTY OFFICER PROMISED TO LOOK INTO IT AND ASKED FOR NUMBER TO CALL SEMENOV BACK. SEMENOV SAID HE WOULD CALL BACK IN 20 MINUTES.

9. INFORMED AT 0730 OF EVENTS, DCM DIRECTED THAT (A) UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WERE SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO BE ALLOWED ON EMBASSY AREA; (B) KOPYTOV SHOULD BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE EMBASSY PROPERTY SHORTLY BUT THAT IT WOULD BE BEST IF THIS DEPARTURE WAS NOT WITNESSED BY THE PRESS (NOTE: CHURCH SERVICE WAS SCHEDULED FOR SPASO 1000-1130), AND (C) MFA BE INFORMED THAT "WE'RE LOOKING INTO IT."

10. SUBSEQUENT MFA CALLS. MFA MADE EIGHT OR NINE MORE CALLS REGARDING THIS INCIDENT. (WITH EXCEPTION OF FOUR CALLS, ALL WERE FROM SEMENOV TO EMBASSY DUTY OFFICER.) SECOND CALL OCCURRED 0750 WITH REQUEST THAT CITIZEN BE RETURNED "RAPIIDLY"; DUTY OFFICER INFORMED SEMENOV THAT EMBASSY "LOOKING INTO IT." THIRD CALL WAS ANSWERED BY AMBSASADOR'S AIDE, TO WHOM SEMENOV COMMENTED THA
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"IF EMBASSY IS NOT COMPETENT TO GUARD ITSELF, ADDITIONAL MEASURES WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN." AT 0910 DUTY OFFICER INFORMED SEMENOV THAT CITIZEN HAD INDEED ENTERED, THAT HE HAD BEEN DRUNK, AND THAT HE WAS SLEEPING. SEMENOV REQUESTED HIS IMMEDIATE RETURN; DUTY OFFICER NOTED THAT CHURCH SERVICE WAS READY TO BEGIN AT SPASO, AND THAT MANY REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WOULD BE PRESENT. SEMENOV SAID THAT EMBASSY DUTY OFFICER "NOT COMPETENT" TO ANSWER QUESTION, AND ASKED TO SPEAK TO DCM. ON SEMENOV'S CALL-BACK, DUTY OFFICER INFORMED THIRD SECRETARY SEMENOV THAT HE, A SECOND SECRETARY, WAS FULLY COMPETENT TO DEAL WITH HIM. SEMENOV SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD, AND THAT CHIEF OF PROTOCOL WOULD CALL. CHERNYSHEV, ACTING HEAD, PROTOCOL DIVISION, SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED DCM TO SAY THAT SOVIET
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"ORGANS OF MILITIA" DEMANDED IMMEDIATE RETURN OF "FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE" WHO NOW AT SPASO. DCM REPLIED THAT SOVIET CITIZEN HAD ENTERED SPASO IN INEBRIATED AND HIGHLY EXCITED STATE, THAT WE WERE ATTEMPTING TO CALM HIM AND PERSUADE HIM TO LEAVE, AND THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE TO URGE HIM TO DO SO. AS FOR "DEMANDS", HE FOUND THEM COMPLETELY INAPPROPRIATE. CHERNYSHEV SUBSEQUENTLY CONTACTED DUTY OFFI
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AT SPAOS, AND WAS AGAIN INFORMED AS ABOVE. CHERNYSHEV WANTED TO KNOW WHEN THERE WOULD BE AN ANSWER, AND WAS TOLD THAT THERE WILL BE ANSWER "WHEN THERE IS AN ANSWER." SEVERAL OTHER CALLS CAME IN TO DUTY OFFICER FROM SEMENOV, ESSENTIALLY REPEATS OF EARLIER CONVERSATIO
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CALL ALSO CAME AT ABOUT NOON TO EMBASSY OPERATOR WITH MESSAGE FOR DUTY OFFICER TO CALL MFA PROTOCOL OFFICE, BUT DUTY OFFICER WAS NOT INFORMED UNTIL AFTER KOPYTOV HAD LEFT SPASO, SO THAT CALL WAS NOT

ANSWERED. FINAL TELCON WAS DUTY OFFICER'S 1335 CALL TO PROTOCOL OFFICE TO LEAVE MESSAGE FOR SEMENOV, WHO WAS ABSENT, TO EFFECT THAT SOVIET CITIZEN HAD DEPARTED.

11. SECOND SESSION WITH KOPYTOV: AT 1000 STAFF AIDE CALLED ARMY ATTACHE AT CHANCERY, AND REPORTED THE KOPYTOV "AWAKE AND READY TO TALK SOME MORE" TO ATTACHE. ARMY ATTACHE, ASSISTANT ATTACHE, POL OFFICER BELOUSOVITCH (CHOSEN FOR LANGUAGE ABILITY), AND DUTY OFFICER MOVED TO SPASO WHERE KOPYTOV HAD BEEN SLEEPING BEHIND DOOR GUARDED BY THREE MARINES. CONVERSATIONS, WHICH WERE AGAIN RECORDED AND ARE BEING SENT TO WASHINGTON, LASTED UNTIL KOPYTOV DEPARTED AT 1330.

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12. AFTER LENGTHY CONVERSATIONS WITH ARMY ATTACHES AND BELOUSOVITCH, KOPYTOV, WHO HAD SETTLED DOWN CONSIDERABLY, WAS AGAIN INFORMED THAT THE EMBASSY COULD DO NOTHING FOR HIM, AND THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE. HE REQUESTED TO BE TAKEN TO THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, SINCE HE HAS A SISTER THROUGH ADOPTION WHO, HE CLAIMS, IS AN AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN (VERA NIKIFOLOVNA IVANCHUK), CURRENTLY VISITING HER MOTHER IN THE SOVIET UNION. INFORMED THAT THIS STEP COULD NOT BE TAKEN SINCE KGB WOULD UNQUESTIONABLY HOLD CAR, KOPYTOV AT LEAST FIVE TIMES REQUESTED CYANIDE SO THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE TO UNDERGO TORTURE, DURING WHICH HE WOULD REVEAL OTHER NAMES OF PEOPLE WHO WOULD ALSO DIE. THOSE DEATHS, HE SAID, WOULD BE ON ATTACHE'S HANDS AND CONSCIENCE.

13. THE INTERVIEWING GROUP FINALLY HAVING CONVINCED KOPYTOV THAT HE MUST LEAVE, DUTY OFFICER AND POL OFFICER INFORMED GUARD OUTSIDE

SPASO (UNIFORMED MAJOR SHOWED DEFERENCE TO PLAINCLOTHESMAN) THAT KOPYTOV WOULD LEAVE SHORTLY BUT THAT "INCIDENT" SHOULD NOT OCCUR AT EMBASSY. SOVIETS AGREED TO PULL BACK THEIR GUARDS.

14. KOPYTOV FINALLY AGREED TO GO, BUT ONLY IF DRUNK, AND QUICKLY CONSUMED ABOUT A LITER OF VODKA. HE WAS ESCORTED BY MARINES AND SECURITY OFFICER TO SPASO HOUSE GATE. PLAINCLOTHES KGB PERSONNEL ALLOWED KOPYTOV TO REACH THE FAR SIDE OF THE SMALL PARK OPPOSITE SPASO HOUSE ENTRANCE BEFORE MAKING THE ARREST. KOPYTOV WAS ROUGHLY SHOVED INTO A LIME-COLORED VOLGA BY ONE OF APPROXIMATELY TEN OFFICERS WHO HAD SURROUNDED HIM AND WAS DRIVEN OFF AT HIGH SPEED. AT THAT POINT APPROXIMATELY 10-12 OTHER KGB OFFICERS WALKED FROM THE AREA OF THE PARK
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TO SOME SIX VEHICLES AND DEPARTED.

15. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HAS BEEN NOTIFIED RE AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN (AND WILL SHARE WITH EMBASSY RESULTS OF ITS INQUIRIES).

16. SOVIET SECURITY COVERAGE AROUND SPASO WAS EXCEPTIONALLY HEAVY. UPON ARRIVAL AT SPASO HOUSE AT 0400 HOURS, EMBASSY SECURITY OFFICERS NOTED EVIDENCE OF SLIGHTLY INCREASED SECURITY IN THE FORM OF AN EXTRA MILITIAMAN AND A VOLGA PARKED IMMEDIATELY AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE RESIDENCE. THROUGHOUT THE MORNING COVERAGE INCREASED MARKEDLY AND OFFICERS MOVING BETWEEN SPASO HOUSE AND THE CHANCERY WERE UNDER CONSTANT VEHICULAR SURVEILLANCE. BY NOON, SIX UNIFORMED MILITIAMEN AND SEVERAL PLAINCLOTHES OFFICERS WERE POSITIONED AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO SPASO HOUSE AND AT LEAST FOUR SURVEILLANCE CARS WERE PARKED WITHIN FIFTY YARDS OF THE RESIDENCE. SHORTLY AFTER NOON, THREE SURVEILLANTS WERE NOTICED POSITIONED ON AND IN BUILDINGS OVERLOOKING THE REAR YARD AT SPASO HOUSE.

17. ON TWO SEPARATE OCCASIONS DURING THE MORNING, THE VEHICLES OF EMBASSY SECURITY OFFICER WAS BRIEFLY PREVENTED BY MILITIA (WHO STOOD IN FRONT OF VEHICLE) FROM ENTERING SPASO GROUNDS WHILE THEY REQUESTED RETURN OF SOVIET CITIZEN. SOVIET SECURITY PERSONNEL ALSO DETAINED PRIVATE EMBASSY VEHICLES UPON DEPARTURE FROM SPASO GROUNDS, VISUALLY SEARCHING INTERIOR TO VEHICLES AND ON TWO KNOWN OCCASIONS LOOKING INSIDE TRUNKS OF VEHICLES.

18. COMMENT. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN KOPYTOV DURING THE INITIAL STAGE AND NEAR THE END OF HIS STAY AT SPASO WAS ALMOST PHENOMONAL. DURING THE SECOND HALF, HIS LANGUAGE WAS CLEARER, HIS THOUGHTS AND EXPRESSIONS FAR MORE RATIONAL, AND HIS HOSTILITY CONSIDERABLY REDUCED. HE DISMISSED ANY SUGGESTIONS THAT WE TRY TO ESCORT HIM TO A METRO STATION BELIEVING THAT HE COULD NOT POSSIBLY ESCAPE.
END COMMENT.

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